NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery. MISS FANNY HERRING AS THE PERSALE DETROTIVE, &C. NEW YORK THEATRE, Broadway. - THE BURLESQUE OF BARBE BLEUE.

PIKE'S OPERA HOUSE, corner of Fighth avenue and 25d street. CHANGON DE FORTUNIO-LES BAVARDS.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.-HUMPTY DEMPTY. WITH NEW PRATURES. Matings at 1%.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway .- THE EMERALD above water.

WALLACK'S THEATRE. Broadway and 18th street.— NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway, -- AFTER DARK; OR, LON-

MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S PARK THEATRE, Brooklyn. -

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—GENEVIEVE DE WOOD'S MUSEUM AND THEATRE, Thirtieth street and

BRYANTS' OPERA HOUSE, Tanmany Building, 14th

RELLY & LEON'S MINSTRELS, 720 Broadway .- ETRIC-SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 585 Broadway. ETHIO-PIAN ENTERTAINMENTS, SINGING, DANGING, &c.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 201 Bowers .- Comic

HIBERNIAN MINSTRELS, Apollo Hall, corner of Broad NEW YORK CIRCUS, Fourteenth street.—EQUESTRIAN

CENTRAL PARK GARDEN.-THEO, THOMAS' GRAND COOPER INSTITUTE, Aster place. John B. Gough's

STEINWAY HALL, Fourteenth street,-Mr. DAWSON LECTURE, "THE PRIM EVAL FLORA."

HOOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.-Hooley's MINSTRELS-"SARTA CLAUS," GIFTS, &c. HOOLEY'S (E. D.) OPERA HOUSE, Williamsburg.-

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 618 Broadway.

TRIPLE SHEET

New York, Wednesday, December 23, 1868

THE NEWS.

Europe.

The cable telegrams are dated December 22. The Sultan has granted three weeks for the debart Pachs, with seven vessels of war, still blockades Syra. The Emperor of Russia has authorized Greek vessels to use the Russian flag. The Greek govern ment is actively preparing for war. Many Russians are entering the Greek service.

It was reported in Madrid yesterday that the United States had sent an envoy to negotiate the purchase of Cuba. The monarchist party carried the elections in Madrid yesterday, and Barcelona and Se ville were won by the republicans.

Changes have taken place in the Portuguese Min

The press of London denounce President John son's last message, particularly that portion relating to United States bonds.

China and Japan.

The steamship Great Republic arrived at San Franeisco yesterday, with advices from Hong Kong November 16 and Yokohama November 28. The news is very vague. The English fleet reached 8th and demanded full reparation for the recent insults to the missionaries at Hang Chow, which was granted by the Vicercy, after threats had been made to seize a Cainese gunboat in the event of refusal. A rebel lion, under General Ling, had broken out in Northern China. Proclamations against Christians were being widely posted. The troubles at Formosa, between Chinese and foreigners were assuming a serious aspect, and gunboats have been sent to protect the latter.

From Japan we learn that the civil war continued. although it was reported that the impermists had captured the rebels' chief town. Seven war ships had appeared in the inland sea and destroyed many castles and some towns. The crowning of the Mikado, at Kioto, was observed as a gala day. Prince Satsuma's visit to the Mikado had been post poned in consequence of his discovering a plot to

The news received from the insurrectionary districts is meagre and conflicting. Successes are claimed by the adherents of both sides. Nearly all the troops lately arrived from Spain have been sent to the seat of war. Colonel Betaucourt, of the revolationary troops, is reported a prisoner at Nuc

Mexico.

Our Mexico city correspondence is dated November 29. A conducta, guarded by a strong force of infantry and cavalry and carrying \$3,000,000 in treasure intended for Europe and the United States, started on the 28th for Vera Cruz. No appointment of iMnister to Washington had yet been decided upon. The bill permitting the free exportation of ores had been returned to Congress by the President with his objections. Gas is to be supplied in the capital.

Our Mazatlan correspondence of November 27 gives an account of the beautiful meteoric display there on the 15th uit.

Re mail from Ruenos Avres we learn that Lopez remained in Villeta, although the danking movement by way of the Gran Chaco is going on. The Paragoay river was rising.

Colombia.

Our Panama letter is dated December 14. It was reported that Obaldia and Diaz, the exiled insurgents, were about returning to Panama with a Central Americans, and a flery document had been issued from the govcrament office threatening any one death who should attempt to raise an insurrection. Caleb Cushing, as a special commissioner, arrived fast stages to Borotá. It is presumed his mission is connected with the scheme for an isthmus canal. The State Legislature is in session, forming a new

Miscellaneous.

Generals Babcock and Porter, of General Grant's stad, have been sent by him on a tour of inspection through Louisiana and Arkansas. They are espectally charged to investigate the troubles now prevalitne in the two States. They arrived in Memphis on Sunday and started Monday night for Little

The vigilance committee which hung the four express robbers in New Albana, Ind., recently have published a circular warning those who have threatened them that if their threats are carried into exe cution the committee will deal summarily with

Measures will probably be introduced in Congress soon after its reassembling providing for a reduction In the pay of army officers and an increase in the pay of Justices of the Supreme Court.

A steigh load of passengers, while crossing the Musissippi river on the ice at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, were precipitated into the water by the breaking of the ice, but were all saved except a baby, which froze to death.

The trial of Twitcheli for the murder of Mrs. Hill. his mother-in-law, in Philadelphia last November is faitly under way. We publish this morning a full reasons of the evidence taken yesterday. Two pickpockets, being caught plying their vo-

ention, were hung by a mob at Carroll Station,

cord, N. H., yesterday. Mrs. Lucy Stone Blackwell was the principal speaker, and gave a glowing nistory of the progress of the cause and predicted that within one year Kansas would give the ballot to

vomen and the negro. Much excitement prevailed upon the Stock Ex-change of Montreal yesterday in consequence of a report that the New York Central Railroad Company and declared a dividend of eighty per cent, and the stock rose to 162. Short sellers at the previous rates

David Caulkner, a policeman of Maiden, Mass., was shot dead yesterday morning by one of two me

whom he attempted to arrest.
Great distress exists among the canal drivers and poor persons temporarily residing in Buffalo, and numbers of them have been, at their own request, committed to the workhouse as vagrants.

The City.

bow of the wrecked steamer Scotland, off Sandy Hook, was blown up yesterday by the Sub-marine Company. Only the stern post is now visible

Commissioner Rollins has designated four ad-Iltional bonded warehouses for New York city-one on Front and three on Water street.

The New England Society last evening celebrated he two hundred and forty-eighth anniversary of the anding of the pilgrims by a grand banquet at Delmonico's. Addresses were delivered by Hon, Schur er Colfax, J. Lothrop Motley, Dr. Hitchcock, General McDowell and others.

There were 385 deaths in New York and 140 in Brooklyn last week. In New York there were 301 births and 224 marriages reported to the Bureau of Vital Statistics.

A boy eighteen years of age was tried in Brooklyn resterday on a charge of having robbed a man of fifty dollars on the highway. It was proved that the boy was so drunk he could not take care of himsel and a verdict of not guilty was returned.

In the coroner's inquest yesterday on the body of Mrs. Julia Croghan it was shown in evidence that she died from pleuro-pneumonia, and not from viouently discharged from custody.

Margaret Welsh, alias Fanny Wright, who was

erving out a life sentence for the murder of officer McChesney, recently had a new trial granted, at which she pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the ourth degree and was sentenced to one year's imorisonment in the Penitentiary. The old Roosevelt will case, in which the New

ork Hospital and four other charitable institutions are the defendants, and which involves the right to \$500,000, bequeathed by the late James H. Roosevell came up in the Supreme Court, special term, vester day, but had to be postponed on account of the inolerable atmosphere of the room, owing to the es cane of gas.

counsel on both sides concluded their argument, and the court adjourned until this morning, when the case will probably be given to the jury.

The Cunard steamship Java, Captain Lott, will sail to-day for Liverpool. The mails will close at the

The steamship Manhattan, Captain Williams, will leave pier 46 North river at twelve M. to-day for queenstown and Liverpool.

The steamship Mississippi, Captain Slocum, will leave pier 43 North Aver at three P. M. to-day for St. homas, Para, Pernambuco, Babia and Rio Janeiro. The steamship Leo, Captain Dearborn, will leave pier 16 East river at three P. M. to-day for Savannah. The steamer Rebeoca Clyde, Captain Chicaester, will leave pier No. 15 East river at four P. M. to-day for Washington and Georgetown, D. C., and Alexan-

The stock market vesterday was irregular and depressed in the afternoon from the morning figures on account of sudden increased activity in money New York Central fluctuated between 151 and 155 Gold was weak and declined to 134%.

Prominent Arrivals in the City.

Major General G. G. Meade, of Philadelp seneral W. J. Cullen, of Montana; Senator J. B. Chaffee, of Colorado, and M. A. Bryson, of St. Louis, are at the St. Nicholas Hotel. Senator L. M. Morrill, of Maine; Dr. George Dock.

and Dr. S. Moore Finley, of Harrisburg, Pa., are a the Astor House. Dr. F. M. Dearborn and Lieuteffant Commander Charles W. Tracey, of the United States Navy; Con-

gressman Thomas Cornell, of New York, and Colonel A. G. A. Woodhull, of the United States Army, are at the Metropolitan Hotel.

Colonel L. B. Grigsby and Jas. C. Barclay, of Kenmaky, are at the Maltby House. J. M. Morgan, of New York, is at the New York

L. Pruyn, of Albany: Marshall Jewell, of Hartford; R. W. Brackenridge, of Fort Wayne, and J. F. Tracey. of Chicago, are at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

at the Hoffman House. Colonel R. C. Tucker, Major Davis and E. R.

Green, of the United States Army, and Judge Mans field, of Illinois, are at the St. Julien Hotel, Paymaster Dwyer and Captain Ashley, of th United States Navy, and Captain James Young, of the British Army, are at the St. Charles Hotel. Prominent Departures.

Senator W. Sprague, of Rhode Island; Henry Stearns, Thomas W. Gibbs and John Simpson, members of the Canadian Parliament.

and North.

All great struggles bring certain destructive elements to the surface against which a governing code, modelled in time of peace, cannot provide. When the life of a nation is threatened new laws spring to the front, born of the moment and strong in their warlike birth. The country which has not the stamina to follow their lead takes a long step backward-fails to hold its own in the race of civilization. So it has been in our own late struggle. Two systems, both gigantic, grew side by side under the most favorable circumstances for both. One was ultra-liberalism, the other was feudalism nursed by the forces which have been brought so vigorously into action in this century. Side by side they grew under the same constitution until the parasite threatened to destroy the tree and, as a consequence, wreck both. Then it was that both forgot the constitution. The South rudely trampled it under foot. The North also ignored the primal law, and, finding it entirely unsuited to cope with that which threatened to blot out the constitution and the nation at the same time, did not hesitate to deal blows at the rebellion, even though the sabre strokes clipped the great code at the same time. Doing this we saved the nation. Who is there in all the broad miles we hold who would have preferred

the salvation of a piece of parchment? We were without a fundamental code during our rebellion, and we have been without one since the war closed; for there is no constitution existing so long as any one of its parts is ignored. The non-recognition of one item implies the right to ignore another, and so on until it vanishes away on the principle of secession. In all this we of the Union did well; but it has required an immense quantity of common sense to preserve our liberties during this epoch. Nothing but the general diffusion of education, the power of the press, the vigor and governing force of the elements of progress existing among us, have prevented the loss of our form of government and the adoption of a military dictatorship. The war threw the constitution back upon the people. and no greater proof exists of the strength of republicanism than the fact that for seven years we have held our old of city bonds for that purpose. This, we be-

we have placed in power to follow our desires, like true statesmen, and restore it, subject to the alterations which we alone have made by the sword. When any Congress refuses this it becomes unrepublican and dictatorial, forcing, as it were, its own desires into the foreground and basing laws upon them, instead of simply shaping our wishes into legal form. It is only in monarchical countries that the people are supposed not to know what they want or what is best for them. If Congress forgets this, then have we taken the first step towards a firmer centralization. To preserve our liberties we must sweep aside the dross that has accumulated in Washington. The men there must fall or recognize immediately as a first principle that no man can lead the people.

With the same good sense which has enabled is to march on in our national greatness, ignoring for a period our fundamental law, we now feel that the moment has arrived for a complete restoration of that law, both South and North. If there still exist brains so weak that they think that the former feudal principles of the South can trample upon and bar the mightiest progress in the world's history they are scarcely worthy of living to enjoy the product of electricity and steam. We are beginning to be narrow and protective in our governmental policy, and consequently retrograde. Does the North wish to drag the ruins of eleven States after it as it marches onward? It is scarcely good sense when those States are now willing and able to march themselves, and consequently help instead of retard us. To become powerful again they must have a period of rest and progress. Is any one so mad as to think they will go back to look for support to the Old instead of giving entrance to the mighty New now knocking at their doors? The great ultimate object of our struggle should be to make the nation homogeneous. Who can say that there are two ways of doing it-one for the North and one for the South? Last year ten of the Southern States gave tess than thirty-three millions of revenue to the national support. This does not indicate prosperity, either local or national, and is scarcely a third of what they should yield when free from political disturbances. There is but one way to mend all this-let them alone and give them a chance to go to work. As there is but one direction for them to move in they will take it, and we shall be astonished to see how rapidly they will fall in with us and help develop the wonderful riches

of the Western World. But what is the first step towards all this? It rests more with ourselves than with them. It is in the hands of Congress-a Congress which must now remember that the people have elected them and demand that the mandates of the people be obeyed. The nation has endured the war, its corruptions and the natural oscillations which are the results of war. Our common sense has carried us safely through where our Congress would have wrecked us. Now we require the restoration of our fundamental code of laws, for the time has passed when national safety required it to be held in abeyance. To-day we have but one branch of government-our Congress. The Executive is a nullity; the Supreme Court bows to a power it cannot face. Let Congress now evolve the powers which the nation forced it to absorb; give back to the Executive branch its full authority; commence by a revocation of the Tenure of Office bill; show confidence in one of the first principles of our government-the division of it into three separate branches. The people wish this, and their wish is significant of action if it be refused. The danger is past. The nation during that danger set the constitution aside, for it was a code of peace. War was thus filled with energy. Peace has now returned to us. It requires not the concentration of war. Therefore we, the people, ask for that which is best suited to it-the constitution, South and North.

IMPORTANT FROM ASPINWALL-CALEB CUSUing's Mission.-We have some very interesting intelligence this morning from the northern neck of South America and some very important facts and speculations in reference to the mysterious mission of Caleb Cushing. He had arrived at Aspinwall December 14 and had immediately departed thence in the United States steamer Yantic, en route to Bogota, no doubt as special commissioner to negotiate for the right of way for a ship canal across the Isthmus of Darien, or by the Atrato river route, perhaps, some distance below. At this projected isthmus ship all events, canal under the occupation and control of the United States may be considered as the special object of Mr. Cushing's mission, and it is a Napoleonic idea, involving one of the grandest enterprises of the nineteenth century. Nor unless the scheme shall involve too much money, cash down, to meet the support of Congress, do we apprehend any serious difficulty to its consummation. We wish Mr. Cushing complete success.

ALABMING PREVALENCE OF INCENDIARISM. The frequency of incendiary fires, both in the city and country, recently, is alarming. No less than half a dozen barns and stables have been maliciously fired and destroyed within a few miles of the city within forty-eight hours. The origin of these fires is a proper subject for the investigation of the authorities of the city and of the residents in remote sections where there are practically no "authorities" except the vigilance of the people themselves. This is a season when vagabonds prowl around the country, and, seeking shelter in haylofts, set fire to barns by their pipes and matches. But where fires are reported to occur by this neans nine times out of ten the mulicions ncendiary is the true sulprit. Therefore our country people, as well as our city residents who have their stables in proximity to their dwellings, should at the particular time of the year exercise unusual precautions in protectng themselves and property against the mishievousness of the minight incendiary.

THE EAST RIVER BRIDGE,-The Brooklyn Board of Aldermen, after having demurred for some time about giving the aid of that city to the important enterprise of uniting New York and Brocklyn by the construction of a bridge over the East river, passed a resolution on Monday night, by the respectable vote of fifteen to four, to issue three millions form of government safely on deposit. We lieve, is only binding upon condition that two woman's Suffrage Convention was neid at Con. have patiently awaited for the men whom | millions more are subscribed by other parties | Paris : but President Johnson's Message relat- making much headway.

Brooklyn Bridge Company. There is no doubt that this sum will be forthcoming; for although the city of Brooklyn may be the gainer to the largest extent by the construction of the bridge, the interests of New York will be materially subserved also. We hope now to see the work set on foot without delay. It is presumable that the opposition of the Union Ferry Company to the bridge enterprise has been overcome so far, and it is to be hoped that no further obstructions will be placed in the way of this most valuable undertaking.

Washburne's Bill in Congress on the Gov-

ernment Telegraph. The bill for the establishment of a governnent telegraph introduced in Congress by E. B. Washburne starts out with the one vital principle of economy in construction. It provides that the materials shall be supplied and the work done by the lowest responsible bidders, if new lines are to be built, and that in no case shall an offer for the sale to the government of any existing lines owned by private corporations be accepted unless the price demanded therefor shall be at least twenty-five per cent less than the lowest aggregate bid for the construction and equipment of the new lines. It is evident from this simple and just proposition that Congressman Washburne thoroughly understands the subject upon which he has entered with such mendable zeal; and that be will carefully guard against the swamping of this popular reform at the outset and the destruction of the real object it seeks to accomplish. Low telegraphic rates and ample telegraphic facilities are what the people demand, and these advantages cannot be secured if new lines are to be constructed at the prices paid by corporation rings, or if old lines are to be foisted on the government at anything like the amount of their watered and fictitious stock.

The telegraph business has always paid under the most adverse circumstances. In spite of stock manipulations by which the companies have been burdened with millions of debt and false capital, representing no actual value; notwithstanding the most wasteful expenditure in construction, repairs and working expenses: under the exorbitant rates consequent upon non-competition and with necessarily limited facilities, telegraphic enterprises have secured large receipts and realized large profits. The Western Union Company, in 1867, showed gross receipts to the amount of seven million dollars and a net profit of two and a half millions. From this we can readily understand what the receipts and profits would have been had the capital of the company-only represented its actual value on the basis of the honest construction of its lines. had the working expenses been controlled by economy and had the business been quadrupled under the impetus of rates fifty per cent lower than those which then prevailed.

The present fictitious capital of the Western Union Company, compared with what its actual capital-with its acquirements other lines-would have been without the stock manipulations, will forcibly illustrate the importance of the points made in the Washburne bill :-

The original capital of the Western Union (This was watered in 1525 and 1895 to twice the amount each time.) (This was watered in 1855 and 1896 to twice the amount sach time.)
The capital in 1857 was.
This was watered in 1858 to.
And in 1863 was again watered to double the amount, making.
In fifteen months thereafter it was increased \$5,000,000, making.
In May, 1854, by a grand watering trocess, it was more than doubled, making.
It was further thereased by stock dividend of two and a half per cent instead of cash and by purchase of stock in other lines in 1866, by the purchase of the United States telegraph for \$4,000,000, the Pacific lines for \$3,334,090, and the American for 21,355,100

for \$3,333,000, and the American for \$12,000,000, it was increased to 41,200,700 Making deductions for unconverted stock, Ac., the capital now represents 410,088 shares, the par of which makes the present capital of 41,008,800

Thus the company stands at the present time, and upon this fictitious capital it has to make earnings and pay dividends. Had the capital from the early organization of the company been exempt from the watering process, and the purchases and consolidations of other lines been upon fair conditions, the amount of stock outstanding at the present time would have been as follows :-

Original capital of the company ... lines, when the stock was selling at 80 ... onsolidation of the United States Pacific lines, when the stock was selling at 75 ... onsolidation of the American Company's Consolidation of the American Company's lines, when the stock was selling at 66....
Stock dividend and fractions.
Purchase of securities of other lines.
Right to Issue stock for extension and improvements paid out of the earnings and other

s of the company..... Making the total number of shares...... 85,000 These eighty-five thousand shares at par would make a capital of eight millions and a half which is all that is honestly represented by the company, exclusive of the watering processes and stock bargains on consolidations and purchases by which some of the managers and manipulators have become millionnaires. These facts show at a glance the importance to the people of securing telegraphic lines honestly constructed, and prove the great importance of the provisions in Washburne's bill to which we have drawn attention.

Our European Cable Despatches.

Our latest advices by the cable inform us bat the Sultan had given three weeks to the Greeks to leave Constantinople, and that he preparing for war. The sympathies of Russia are very significantly manifested in favor of the Greeks; and, though the government at Athens appears to be afraid of war, the treat Power behind her is evidently encouraging the war party. The old quarrel about the holy places, which expanded into the war of the Crimea, is only assuming a new shape. It is still the Russian fingerboard pointing to Constantinople. From Spain we have the news that the roy-

alists have carried the elections in Madrid, while the republ cans have carried Barcelona and Seville, and that six thousand troops, so for have been sent to suppress the Cuban insurrection. Moreover, it appears that the goverement at Madrid is resolved never to abandon her colonies-never; but at the same time they were looking out at Madrid for the arrival of a real estate agent of Mr. Seward reported to be en route with his eye upon

Everything seems to be remarkably quiet in

to complete the work of the New York and ing to the new financial idea of withholding the interest on the national bonds to pay the principal has created a regular sensation in London. The press there is unanimous in its condemnation of this brilliant Johnsonian conception. But John Bull will learn very soon, to his perfect conviction, that there are two Johnsons who do not always accurately represent the public sentiment of the United States.

A Cabinet crisis in Portugal-a small tempest in a little teapot-rounds up our last night's European budget of cable items.

The Theatres and the Holidays.

Everywhere in Europe-in the provincial towns as well as in the capitals of Great Britain, France, Germany and Italy-special theatrical novelties are provided for Christmas and New Year's holidays. New pantomimes and spectacles annually entiven the stage, particularly at Paris and at London. But in New York even the most enterprising managers seem to imagine that scarcely any change in their ordinary programme is requisite at this season. Perhaps this is because they may now count with confidence upon large and easily satisfied audiences, extraordinarily reinforced by children and youth and by visitors from Brooklyn, Boston, Newark, Philadelphia, Chicago and other "rural" places. Moreover, these managers, by waiting only a few weeks, may be able to reproduce almost all the London and Paris novelties without any fear of injunctions from so-called native dramatists, and without any drafts whatever upon the latter, who, like their foreign competitors, are unprotected by an international copyright law. It is unlucky that Christmas comes on the same day and New Year's on the same day both in Europe and America. If there were a difference of three weeks, instead of four or five bours in solar time, we might enjoy reproductions of European holiday entertainments now instead of next month.

Meanwhile we must make the best of the entertainments which are actually offered to us, and which, it must be admitted, lack neither variety nor attractiveness. If "Wonder," which was successfully revived at Wallack's on Monday evening, and other pieces which figure on the bills there this week, can be by no means classed among "novelties," they at least will delight all lovers of sterling old comedies. The lovers of the sensational will be perfectly satisfied with "After Dark," at Niblo's. "The Emerald Ring," truly described as "a genuine Irish drama, by a genuine Irish author, and acted by a genuine Irish comedian and his accomplished wife, the original Yankee girl," is the rage at the Broadway. The Bowery rejoices in "The Fast Women of Modern Times." At Wood's Museum "Ixion" is still at the wheel, with Miss Lydia Thompson's burlesque troupe. Burlesque, in fact, rules the roost, not only at the elegant French theatre on Fourteenth street and at Pike's spacious Opera House on Twenty-third street-the two temples specially dedicated to opera bouffe-but also Bryant's (where, in Geneviève de Bryant, Gabel is almost out-Gabelled), at the New York theatre, at Kelly & Leon's Minstrels, At all the other minstrels and wherever burat all the other innered. The New York Cir-lesques can be burlesqued. The New York Circus gives a grand come Cheistmak Santomime, entitled "Blue Beard a la Turque-Française." The Central Park Winter Garden holds a "Grand Christmas Festival." comprising musical, pantomimic and gymnastic entertainments. Last, but by no means least, "Humpty Dumpty," once more reconstructed. renews at the Olympic, for more than the three bundredth time, its lease of perpetual south.

The Brooklynites will enjoy this week at their Academy of Music two visits from Mr. Grau's opera bouffe company, which last evening gave, at the French theatre, for the benefit of the Hebrew Benevolent Fuel Society, one act of "Barbe Bleue" and a portion of "Genevieve de Brabant," with as much success as last week, at the Academy of Music, for the benefit of the French Benevolent Society. Mr. Bateman's opera bouffe company has added to its repertory the charming "Chanson de Fortunio," and at the matinge on Christmas day the "Grande Duchesse de Gérolstein" will be revived in full glory. On that occasion, we understand, the price of admission will be fifty cents to all parts of the house.

A fancy dress ball at the French theatre will, on Christmas eve, diversify the festivities of the week. Among these festivities must be counted numerous other balls, as well as concerts and even lectures and readings. The course of scientific lectures before the American Institute will be uninterrupted, and President Dawson, of Montreal, will, this evening, describe at Steinway Hall the marvels of the "Primeval Flora." Miss Olive Logan and Miss Nina Foster will have shared the honors of Christmas week as artistic readers, and Mr. George Vandenhoff will begin his readings next week. An amateur dramatic and musical entertainment was given last evening at the Union League Club House for a great public charity-the Cosmopolitan Eye and Ear Hospital. The entertainment was a conceit of Dr. Garrish, and it was handsomely executed, to the delight of a full and first class andience. Finally, the New York Harmonic Society promise a grand performance of "The Messiah," at Steinway Hall, on Christmas night, and short sermons and fine music in churches gayly decorated with green boughs and blooming flowers will, on Christmas eve and on Christmas day, vie with the theatrical diversions of the week in promoting the general joy.

Who is the Mas. - referred to in Mr. Van Wyck's whiskey fraud report? Mr. Fitch. in his examination before the investigating committee, said that certain parties, and among them a lady in Washington, bad urged him to draw up an affldavit against District Attorney Courtney for the purpose of getting that official suspended. The names of the male parties are given, but that of the female is left blank. It is pretty generally known who the lady in Washington referred to is; but why leave it simply Mrs. --- in the report? The investigating committee must have a special regard for ladies, or for this one la particular.

STILL INEXPLICABLY MIXED UP-The news concerning the insurrection in Cuba. It appears that the government troops are gaining victories and capturing prisoners from day to day, but still it does not appear that they are

CENTRAL PARK GARDEN CHRISTONAS FESTIVAL.

Although the days of the vole log, the hear's bead

is not neglected, at least in this city. Despite the

carol are gone forever, merry old Christma

dants of the New England roundbeads, who would fain persuade us that Caristmas is "a-bom-i mation:" that langher, merriment and pleasure are devices of the arch enemy; that we have been sent into this world as acarecrows to all joy and gladness, and that our principa, nay only, occupation should be psalin-singing and turning up the whiles of our eyes, there are still true Ceristians left among us to honor the brithday of the Babe of Bethlehem. Santa Claus finds many enthusiastic adherents in this city, and nowhere is he hopored in such a galamaner as at the Central Park Garden. For real appreciation of amusement and observance of great locativals commend us the Germans. They go about him manufacture as if it were the most important duty in the world. They sit down in solemn council and hold grave conclave over the arrangement of grotesque cartoons, a buriesque ballet, an indescribable costume, a phenomenal Christians tree or a potpourri of everything that is ridiculous in the leavent above, the earth beneath or the waters under the earth. In the end they give more variety, at least of anusement, than even the neceurial children of France. Mr. Gosche, the manager of Central Park Garden, anxious to find out some inducement for people to travel Farkward in the winter, has engaged Santa Claus at an enormous expense and has aftiven the arrangement of a Christians palace into his hands. Let us see how the old gentleman has succeeded. First he has enclosed the beautiful summer garden and flanked it with two theatres, one of when repoless in very extraordinary automaton agares; which are always prompt and never disappoint the andience. The other has a treasure in the person of a certain celebrated American comic singer named Williams. From the roof Mr. Claus has suspended two adventurous individuas yelept the Delavante Brothers, who every evening make the most desperate attempts to break their necks, but who have so far happily been unsuccessfal. Thou there are real Tyrolean singers, after in number, and of Hofer and remotely connected with William Tell. Ey the way, speaking of William Tell, here is a good o na-tion;" that laughter, merriment and pleasure are devices of the arch enemy; that we have been sent

THE BALL SEASON.

Twentieth Annual Ball of the Riggers' Union

Association.

The twentieth annual bail of the Riggers' Union association was celebrated at Apollo Hall, corner of Twenty-eighth street and Broadway, last evening, Twenty-eighth street and Broadway, last evening, and was in every way a success. It was one of the pleasantest parties that has been gathered within the walls of that room this season. The Indies were numerous, presty and handsomely attired, as were also their male attendants. The programme contained a choice selection of twenty-six dances, which were gone through with great spirit and kept up until an early hour this morning. The floor was in charge of Mr. Thomas Blair, ably assisted by Messrs. W. Brown, C. James, H. Hosie, R. Thompson, W. Keating and M. Marks. Messrs. S. Crawley, D. Desmond, J. Donovan, J. Donnelly, J. Murney and J. McKenna acted as reception committee.

Balls to Take Place. The following named balls are announced to take

Iall.
Dec. 23—Brookes' Solrée—Brookes' Rooms.
Dec. 23—Protection Engine Company—Gothic Hall

Bec. 24—Island Social Club—Apollo Hall.
Bec. 24—Masquerade Ball—French Theat
Bec. 24—Jones' Soirce—Military Hall.
Bec. 24—Independent Social Club—

Dec. 24—Independent Social Cooms.
Dec. 24—Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1—Gothic Hall.
Dec. 25—Mutual Base Ball Club—Irving Hall.
Dec. 25—Christmas Ball—Brookes' Rooms.
Dec. 25—Christmas Solrée—Military Hall.
Dec. 25—Lorely Bund—National Assembly Rooms.
Doc. 28—First Regiment Hawkins Zonaves—Apol.

Jan. 11—Dramatic Fund Ball—Academy of Music. Jan. 13—La Coterie Fancy Dross Rell Candon of Olivers (1997) Jan. 21—Our Sociable—Rivers' Academy, Brook-

SOCIETY OF PRACTICAL ENGINEERING.

The Society of Practical Engineering held a regular meeting at room No. 24 Cooper Institute last even-ing. It had been announced that a paper upon the subject of "The Prevention of Marine and River Disasters" would be read before the society. Such a paper was prepared by Mr. Robert Creuzbaur, C. E., embracing seven prominent points regarding the dangers of vessel remedies for them. Upon the opening of the sels and remedies for them. Open the opening of the meeting the President announced that, owing to the fact that proper notice had not been given and other formalities about the paper of Mr. Creuzbarr, it was not in order. Upon an appeal from the decision of the chair the President refused to notice the genternam making the appeal and peremptority called the members wishing explanations to order. He then announced that a paper on the subject of "The Prevention of Marine Disasters" had been prepared by a member of the society, and called for its reading. The paper was read by Mr. Hall, and especially noticed the foundering by sea, the going ashore and destruction by fire to which vessels were subject. His principal remedies for these calamaties were the construction of vessels with waterlight compartments and the use of the steam pump. After the reading several gentlemen discussed the question.

FIRES IN THE CITY.

In Dev Street. About half-past ten o'clock last night officer Mc-Donnell, of the Twenty-seventh Precinct, discovered a tire issuing from the second floor of the brick builda tire issuing from the second floor of the brick building No. 53 Dey street, occupied by Messrs, H. A. Dickinson & Co., manufacturers of patent cigar cases. Their loss will amount to about \$1,500, on stock and machinery; insured. The fire extended to the third floor, occupied by Messrs, M. A. Goodenough & Co., dealers in feather dusters, who suffered a loss on stock about \$300; also insured. The first floor, occupied by Messrs, Clarke & Co., wholesale liquor dealers, was also slightly damaged. The building was damaged about \$500; also insured, the supposed cause of the fire was from an overheated slove.

In West Honston Street.

About quarter to one o'clock this morning, as Sergeant Christie, of the Eighth precinct, was patrolling his post, he discovered flames issuing from trolling his post, he discovered flames issuing from the luquor store of C. S. Williams, No. 127 West Houston street. The alarm was instantly given, and the fremen responding quickly, it was extinguished before it had made any great headway. The damage to stock and fixtures will amount to fully \$1,000, but whether insured or not could not be ascertained. The fire was dist seen he-hind the bar, but its origin is wholly unknown. The upper portion of the house, which is a four story brack dwelling, is vacant at present.

FATAL RAILEDAD ACCIDENT. Edward Quigley, an employe on the Hudson River Railroad, was accidentally run over by a locomotive, about ten o'clock last night, at the toot of Lord street, and instantly killed. The coroner will hold an inquest to day.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE CONVENTION AT CONCORD.

CONCORD, Dec. 22, 1868. The Convention favorable to woman's suffrage assembled to-day in Eagle Hall, Rev. J. F. Lovering, of Concord, president, with tweive male and eight female vice presidents. Resolutions were presented declaratory of the objects of the meeting, and specifies were made by the President, Dr. Backwell, of New Jersey; Rev. Mr. Babecek, of Lauraster: Mrs. Frances Watkins Harper, of Philadelphia, and others. Mrs. Lang Stone Backwell gave a history of the procress of the cause in the country, she said it was going on the country, she said it was going on buely in Kansas, New Jetsey, Ohio, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. It was predicted that within one year Kansas would give the ballot to woman and the negro. The women softing manter in Ohio will never meet with the disgrace that attended nearo suffrage inconstitut the camity. The cause looks hopeful. Mrs. Stone was lavorably impressed with what such had seen stace her arrival in New Hampshire, and she was consident that the just and loving freemen of the White Mogmain State Wood, the true to their noble ancesty and not made force; withhold from woman her failest trait.

The Convention was well artended. of Concord, president, with twelve male and eight

GOVERNOR FENTON'S FAREWELL RECEPTION.

ALBANY, 1000, 22, 1802. Governor Fenton gave a targe and brilliant recepon tids evening. The Executive Mansion was thronged by a fine assemblage, including, bossdes the leading entrens of the capital, a large number of leading latter and gentlemen from other parts of the state. It was his tarawell reception of the Governor, and was admirable to all respects.